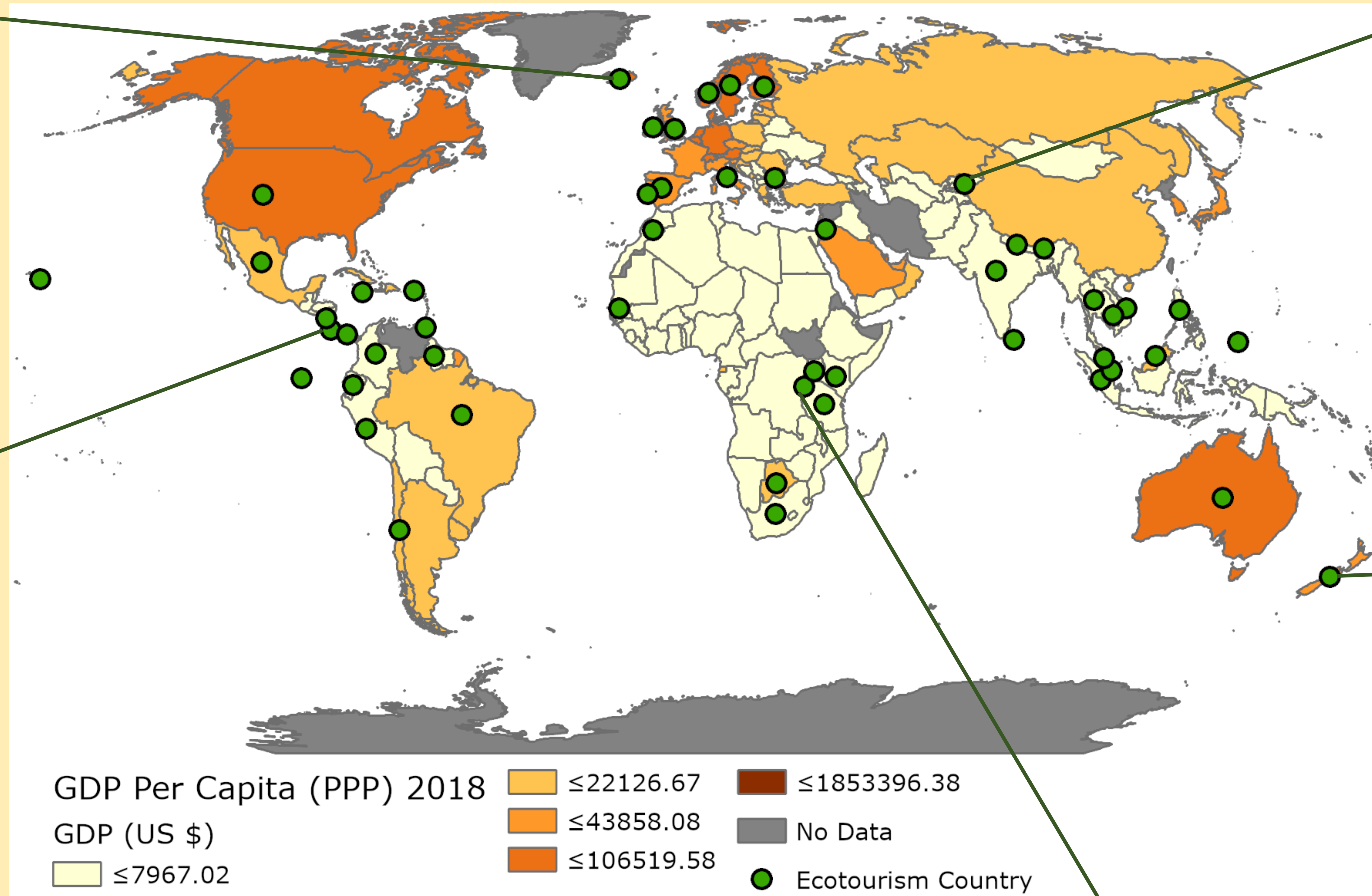


Spatial Analysis of Ecotourism and Economies of Countries

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Ecotourism is a subjective concept that can only really be decided by opinion. Some countries avidly work towards inviting tourists in in order to stimulate their economy, without disturbing the natural landscape. More people are looking for a way to travel without furthering the destruction of Earth, and that's when they turn to ecotourism. This map displays heavily advertised ecotourism by country and their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita.



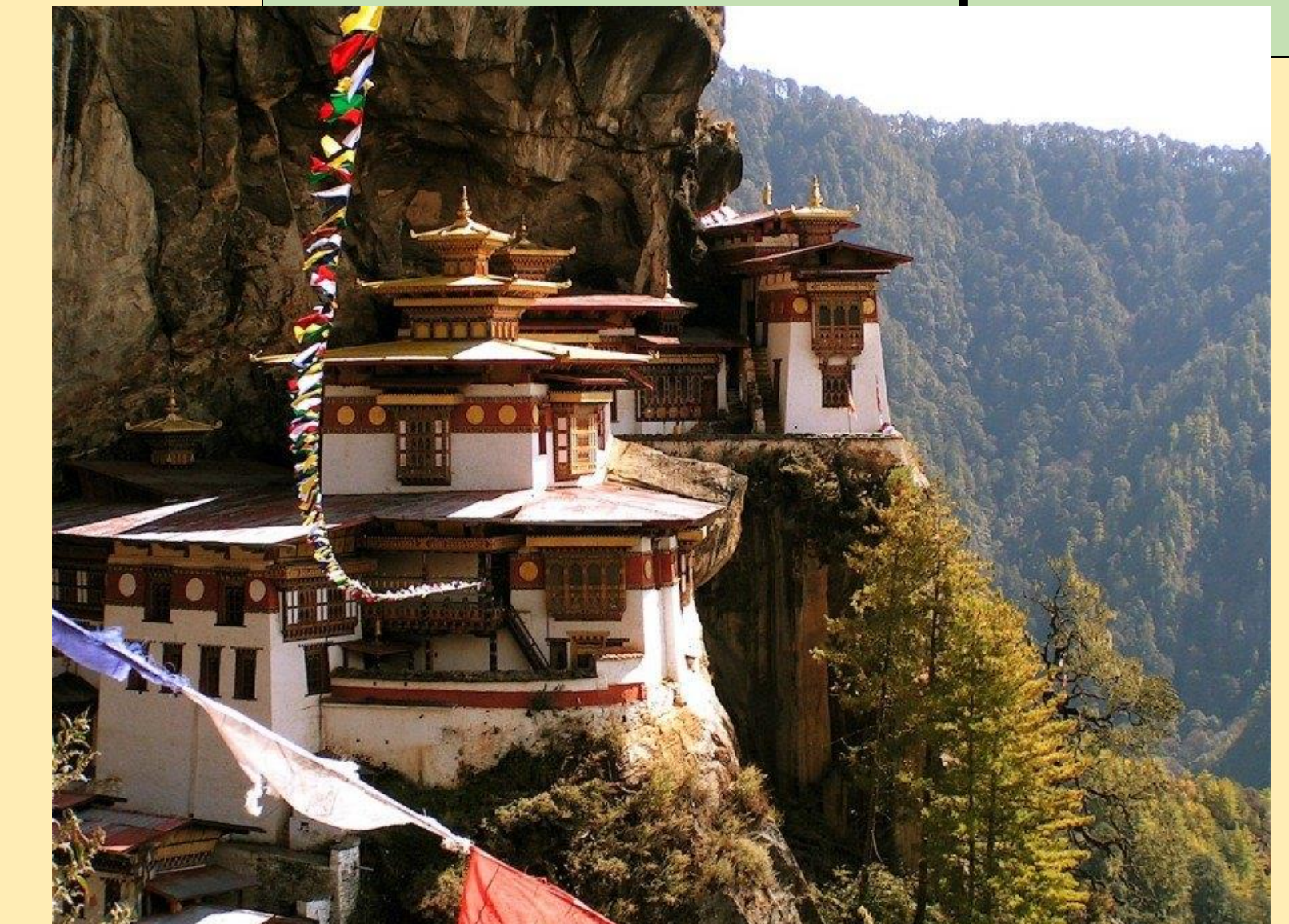
Iceland

- Iceland came into the public spotlight in 2010 after the massive eruption of Eyjafjallajökull, an ice-covered volcano.
- Iceland has a high GDP, with the increase of tourists helping their economy even more.



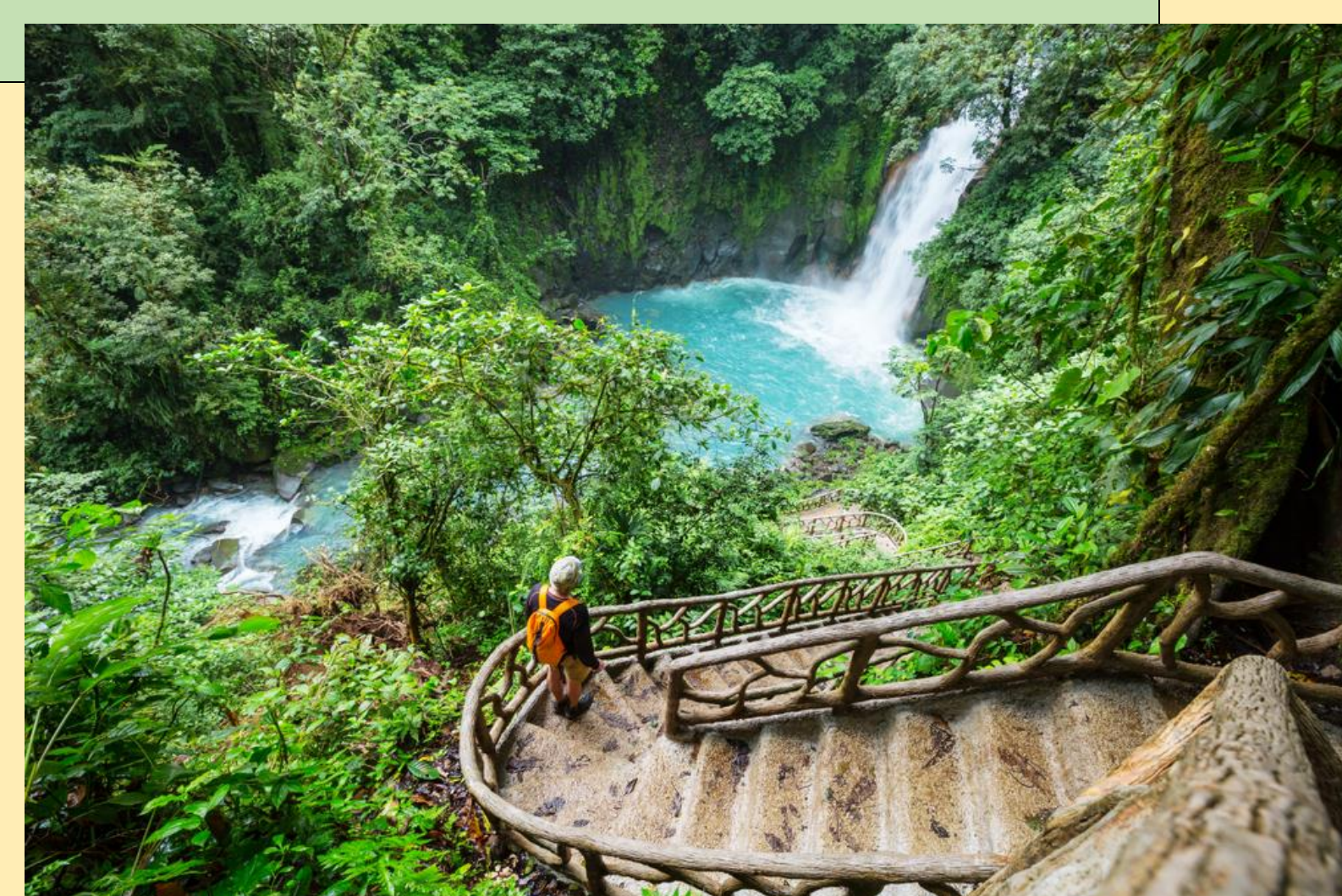
Bhutan

- Limits all travelers to a prepaid, guided tour
- Nature is the main reason tourists are attracted to the Himalayan country, but because they've recently opened their doors to tourists, ecotourism is a bit underdeveloped.



Costa Rica

- Top country in the world for ecotourism, and heavily advertised since the 1990s
- Ecotourism represents 3% of Costa Rica's GDP.



New Zealand

- Ecotourism has become the fastest growing economic sector in New Zealand, making it a larger focus for the beautiful country.
- Has a higher GDP per capita than most of the countries mentioned.



Rwanda

- Ecotourism sector focuses on promoting viewing mountain gorillas and beautiful landscapes.
- Rwanda has a low GDP and can be attributed to colonization and limited infrastructure.



Conclusion

- Ecotourism isn't a foolproof method of travelling sustainably, because no matter what, the traveler would have to get into some type of vehicle to travel, which is not healthy for the environment.
- Ecotourism is all over the world but tends to be focused in lesser-developed countries, like Central America and Southeast Asia.
- The map shows weak correlation of GDP per capita to heavily advertised ecotourism countries.

References

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